|Court File No. CV-19-627184-00CL CV-19-627185-00CL and CV-19-627186-00CL

ONTARIO SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE COMMERCIAL LIST

IN THE MATTER OF THE BANKRUPTCY OF QUADRIGA FINTECH SOLUTIONS CORP., WHITESIDE CAPITAL CORPORATION AND 0984750 B.C. LTD. D/B/A QUADRIGA CX AND QUADRIGA COIN EXCHANGE

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS OF THE OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF AFFECTED USERS

October 11, 2019

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A. OVERVIEW

1. Representative Counsel submits these written submissions in support of the Settlement Approval Order.

B. FACTS

2. Except as necessary, the facts are set out in the Reports filed by Ernst & Young Inc. in its capacity as the trustee in bankruptcy (the "Trustee") of 0984750 B.C. Ltd. dba Quadriga CX and Quadriga Coin Exchange, Quadriga Fintech Solutions Corp. and Whiteside Capital Corporation (collectively, "Quadriga") under the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act*¹ (the "BIA").

C. SUBMISSIONS

3. This Court has the inherent jurisdiction to approve the enclosed Settlement Agreement, including the releases.

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¹ R.S.C. 1985, c. B-3.

- 4. Under the BIA, the Court may exercise its inherent jurisdiction if two preconditions are met:²
 - 1. the BIA must be silent on a point or not have dealt with the matter exhaustively; and
 - 2. after balancing competing interests, the benefits of granting the relief must outweigh the relative prejudice to those affected by it.
- 5. In *Samji*, the British Columbia Supreme Court held that a court may exercise inherent jurisdiction to approve a settlement agreement.³
- 6. Samji related to a fraudulent Ponzi scheme in which some investors were paid more than their investment (the "net winners"), and some investors lost their investment (the "net losers").⁴ Similar to this case, in Samji:
 - (a) there was one large body of creditors that had any significance;
 - (b) the trustee entered into a settlement agreement with certain of the net winners, which was approved by the inspectors; and
 - (c) the trustee sought court approval of the settlement agreement, which included a release of claims against the settling net winner by the bankruptcy estate and the bankrupt's creditors. ⁵
- 7. Against the opposition of some creditors, in approving the settlement agreement (including the releases), the court in *Samji* determined that the BIA was silent on the approval of a settlement

² Samji, Re, 2013 BCSC 2101 at para 20 [Samji] at Tab 1 of the Book of Authorities.

³ *Ibid* at para 19.

⁴ *Ibid* at paras 3-9.

⁵ Ibid at para 14.

between a bankrupt and a third party that included a full and final settlement of all claims and a release from the bankrupt and its creditors.⁶ This principle is directly applicable to this case.

- 8. In balancing the competing interests, the court in *Samji* determined that the approach taken by the trustee maximized returns to the creditors by avoiding costly litigation against all of the net winners for fraudulent preferences.⁷
- 9. The court held that the decision of the trustee and inspectors to enter into the settlement was a legitimate business decision. The court cited case law for the principle that a court should show deference to the business decisions made by the trustee and inspectors.⁸
- 10. It is submitted that this case is analogous to *Samji*, except that the support for the Settlement Agreement in this case goes a step further. In *Samji*, certain creditors opposed the approval of the settlement agreement. Here, the Official Committee, as court-appointed voice of the overwhelming majority of creditor claims, negotiated the Settlement Agreement and supports its execution.
- 11. Like *Samji*, the Official Committee's decision to enter into the Settlement Agreement in this case was a business decision centered around avoiding the time, cost and delay associated with litigation while returning a substantial amount of assets into the Quadriga estate for distribution to creditors. It is respectfully submitted that this business decision, and the support of the Official Committee, should be weighed heavily.

⁷ *Ibid* at para 36.

⁶ *Ibid* at para 26.

⁸ *Ibid* at para 22.

ALL OF WHICH IS RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 11th day of October, 2019.

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WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

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